

**Educational equity** is the condition of justice, fairness and inclusion in our systems of education so that all students have access to the opportunities to learn and develop to their fullest potentials. The pursuit of educational equity recognizes the historical conditions and barriers that have prevented opportunity and success in learning for students based on their races, incomes, and other social conditions. Eliminating those structural and institutional barriers to educational opportunities requires systemic change that allows for distribution of resources, information and other support depending on the student's situation to ensure an equitable outcome.

Equity is different from equality. Equity is a principle that is based upon justness and fairness, while equality demands everyone be treated at the same level.

The Minnesota Department of Education is leading for educational excellence and equity. Every day for every one.



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## Ten Minnesota Commitments to Equity

Creating equitable opportunities is dependent upon having inclusive policies and practices that **represent** all students, and providing each student increased **access** to and creating meaningful **participation** in high-quality learning experiences where each student realizes positive **outcomes**.

1. **Prioritize equity:** Set and communicate a vision and targets for high outcomes for all students.
2. **Start from within:** Focus on leadership, diversity and inclusiveness.
3. **Measure what matters:** Use relevant and meaningful data. Hold each other accountable for equity.
4. **Go local:** Engage and develop leaders at all levels. Empower community partners in the continuous improvement work.
5. **Follow the money:** Allocate resources to learners who need them most.
6. **Start early:** Invest in families and learners early on.
7. **Monitor equitable implementation of standards:** Improve the quality of curriculum and instruction for all students.
8. **Value people:** Focus on teachers and leaders. Develop the people you have. Ensure equitable access to the best teachers.
9. **Improve conditions for learning:** Focus on school culture, climate and social-emotional development. Connect teaching to the experiences, assets and needs of students.
10. **Give students options:** Empower students with high-quality options to support every learner's success.

*Adapted from the Council for Chief State School Officers, Florida Department of Education and the Midwest & Plains Equity Assistance Center (MAP Center).*

Revised July 25, 2018